

In November, Dr. Van Ummersen announced she accepted an opportunity to work for the American Council of Higher Education as Vice President and Director of the Office of Women in Higher Education.

In honor of Dr. Claire A. Van Ummersen's hard work and dedication, I ask my colleagues to join me today to recognize her efforts as a community leader and role model.

**SUPPORT THE EARTHQUAKE LOSS
REDUCTION ACT OF 2001**

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, when a major earthquake hits our communities in California, one of the first things firefighters and police must do is make sure local hospitals are ready to handle injuries. Falling walls, buckling roads, flaming gas-main breaks—the aftermath of an earthquake can quickly turn an entire hospital into an emergency room.

Imagine, then, what a disaster it would be if one of the buildings destroyed in an earthquake is the only hospital for 100 miles around. This is the prospect faced by many residents in remote rural areas in California, like the Mojave Desert in my district. It is a chilling thought, and it is something that we must not allow to happen.

The California Legislature has mandated that it will not happen. By 2008, all hospitals in the state must be retrofitted or rebuilt to ensure they will remain standing in a major quake. This is an admirable goal and an absolute necessity. But it is also so expensive that small rural hospitals and major urban medical centers are worried they cannot afford the upgrade.

To help avoid this, my colleague MIKE THOMPSON and I have introduced the Earthquake Loss Reduction Act of 2001. It would begin the process of investing in mitigation rather than paying tens of billions of dollars in disaster relief for every natural disaster that occurs in this country.

In support of this measure, I would urge my colleagues to consider the following information provided to me by the California Healthcare Association:

HISTORY OF HOSPITAL SEISMIC MANDATE

The state of California in 1994 enacted sweeping legislation mandating stringent new hospital building seismic standards (SB 1953, Chapter 740, Statutes of 1994).

The legislation was approved in the wake of the January 1994 Northridge earthquake, which caused 23 hospitals to suspend some or all of their services and resulted in more than \$3 billion in hospital-related damages.

No patient who was hospitalized during the Northridge earthquake died as a result of the tremor. No patient in any California hospital has died as a result of a building's structural failure due to an earthquake since 1971.

The seismic mandate requires all hospital buildings in the state to comply with more stringent seismic-safety mandates by specified deadlines—(1) by 2002, major non-structural systems such as backup generators, exit lighting, etc. must be braced; (2) by 2008,

all general acute-care inpatient buildings at risk of collapsing during a strong earthquake must be rebuilt, retrofitted or closed; and (3) by 2030, all hospital buildings in the state must be constructed to remain operational following a major earthquake or close.

The specific regulations for this statute were not finalized until 1997, and the cost of the mandate was not fully understood until engineers thoroughly evaluated all of the state's hospital buildings as required by Jan. 1, 2001.

Thorough hospital building evaluation reports were submitted by hospitals throughout the state by Jan. 1, 2001. These reports were made public by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) on March 28, 2001.

Based on the evaluation reports, 78 percent of the hospitals in California have at least one building that is at risk of collapse during a major earthquake.

IMPACT OF LEGISLATION

There are approximately 2,700 general acute-care inpatient hospital buildings (at approximately 470 hospitals) that are required to meet the mandates of the seismic law.

The seismic mandates enacted by the Legislature in 1994 did not provide any financial assistance to hospitals to help defray the costs of these upgrades. The state's seismic law is an "unfunded mandate" on hospitals.

The current "hard construction" cost estimate to comply with the requirements of the state's seismic law is \$24 billion. This cost is equivalent to the total undepreciated assets of all of California's hospitals. Additionally, hospitals will face significant additional costs including the cost of financing, land acquisition, reconfiguring parking and revenues lost during seismic retrofitting or construction.

California hospitals face mounting financial pressures. More than 60 percent of California's hospital—2 out of every 3—are currently losing money from operations. Nearly a third of the state's urban hospitals and more than 50 percent of rural and inner-city hospitals are losing money from all sources of income.

Many hospitals—especially rural and inner-city facilities—may not be able to raise the necessary capital to comply with the state's seismic law. Those that can't will be forced to close their doors or significantly reduce their services.

According to a December 2000 Standard & Poor's report, California's hospitals face "... deteriorating credit quality and more limited access to capital" than hospitals in other parts of the country. "Given the volatility of the health care sector, access to capital through bond financing has been greatly reduced for all but the strongest credits. Bond insurers have retreated from the sector, limiting exposure to higher-rated credits and charging significantly higher fees."

The seismic mandates do not account for the additional operating burdens faced by hospitals, including rising costs for pharmaceuticals and new technologies, and reduced reimbursement from government and insurance programs.

Construction and retrofitting activities to meet the law's current deadlines are likely to diminish services to patients—including the uninsured—exacerbate personnel shortages, and result in dislocation of medical staff and employees.

Because of the lengthy five- to six-year approval and construction processes required for hospital building projects, the issues sur-

rounding compliance with the seismic law must be addressed this year.

**HONORING THE PARTICIPANTS OF
THE 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
ARTS COMPETITION**

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the students, teachers and volunteers who participated in 16th Congressional District Arts Competition this past Saturday in Southgate, Michigan. All totaled, 73 students from twelve area high schools participated in this year's competition and I want to say thank you to everyone involved in putting this extraordinary event together.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the winners this morning. I offer my congratulations to Jennifer Senko of Lincoln Park High School, who took top honors with her self-portrait entry; Rebecca Gruden of Dundee High School in Monroe County, who won the second place prize for "Alice's Cup of Tea"; Amber George, also of Lincoln Park High, who placed third for "The Old House"; and finally Brian D. Goodwin of Grosse Ile High School, who received the fourth place award for his work "Belle Isle."

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of a wonderful woman and educator from Lincoln Park High School, Mrs. Valerie Truax. Valerie has been involved with the Congressional Arts Competition for many years. Unfortunately, this will be her last year, because after 34 years of instructing the students of Lincoln Park in the visual arts, Valerie is retiring. It is a beautiful tribute and a reflection of her dedication and enthusiasm that two of her students won honors at the competition, with Jennifer taking the top prize. Congratulations Valerie, thank you for your fine service to your community and to the arts. We will miss you.

Jennifer Senko, the first place winner received a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and will be flown to Washington, D.C. to participate in an awards ceremony with other first-place winners from around the country. Her winning self-portrait will be shown at the Capitol Exhibit with the artwork of other first-place winners in the Cannon Tunnel—an underground, pedestrian walkway between the U.S. House of Representatives and the Capitol—through May 2002.

The artwork of Rebecca Gruden, Amber George and Brian D. Goodwin will be proudly displayed in my Washington office through May 2002, where visitors from all over the world will have the opportunity to appreciate the talents of these fine young artists from Michigan's 16th Congressional District. I am looking forward to the arrival of these fine works of art.

INTRODUCTION OF ADAMS
MEMORIAL LEGISLATION

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my legislation to authorize the placement of a memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor John Adams and his wife, Abigail; John Quincy Adams and his wife, Louisa; and their legacy of public service.

History's characterization of the remarkable Adams family has been woefully inadequate. The patriarch, John Adams, is often portrayed as short and overbearing, better known for his temper than his leadership and intellect.

Thanks largely to David McCullough's forthcoming biography of Adams, such misconceptions will soon be corrected. Adams, of course, was the most passionate advocate for our break with Britain. He nominated Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence and passionately and persuasively defended the final product. It was Adams's foresight to nominate George Washington as commander of the Continental Army, and he negotiated the Treaty of Paris to end the Revolutionary War.

As President, Adams was nonpartisan and ideological, never sacrificing his beliefs for political gain. He skillfully (and wisely) avoided war with France despite the overwhelming warmongering from his own Federalist Party. Such independence preserved his integrity, but cost him a second term.

One of the few people truly comparable to John Adams both in passion and intellect was his wife, Abigail. Those who knew them personally called their union perfect. Abigail's letters to her husband reveal not only her wit and intelligence, but also a profound belief in the equality of women that was more than 100 years before its time.

Their son, John Quincy Adams, was perhaps the most remarkable public servant in our country's history. Following in the footsteps of his father, Adams spent much of his public service career in Europe as foreign minister to Russia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, and Great Britain. As foreign minister to Russia during the Madison Administration, he negotiated the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812. As Secretary of State under President Monroe, John Quincy Adams was a primary author of the critical Monroe Doctrine, which warned European nations against involvement in American affairs. He also negotiated the transfer of Florida from Spain to the U.S. and successfully extended the border of the Louisiana Purchase all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Like his father, John Quincy Adams was an idealistic President. Despite the objections of many in his own party, he sponsored a program of government investment in science, education and infrastructure. He urged the government to establish an observatory, and fund a national university. His many critics called his initiatives unconstitutional. Like his father, John Quincy Adams's refusal to succumb to political pressure cost him a second term.

Following his Presidency, John Quincy Adams returned to public life as a U.S. Representative from Quincy, Massachusetts. He served nine terms in Congress and spent the majority of his time and energy vociferously opposing slavery. He suffered a stroke on the House floor in 1848 and died in a chamber of the Capitol two days later.

John Quincy Adams's son, Charles Francis, served in both the Massachusetts and U.S. House of Representatives, in his father's old seat. Similar to his father and grandfather, Charles Francis Adams was a strong abolitionist who left the Whig Party to run on the 1848 Free Soil ticket as the vice-presidential candidate. He is best known for his role during the Civil War as foreign minister to England, his logic, reserve and directness preventing the British from substantively embracing the Confederacy.

Charles Francis Adams's son, Henry Adams, was a "liberal Republican" journalist who detested the partisanship that infested Washington during Reconstruction. Through his writing, he exposed massive political corruption and numerous scandals. Henry Adams is best known for his brilliant autobiography, *The Education of Henry Adams* (published in 1918), which won the Pulitzer Prize.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this legislation which, pursuant to the 1986 Commemorative Works Act, authorizes the placement of a commemorative work, to one of our country's truly remarkable and indispensable families. I want to thank my friend and colleague, BILL DELAHUNT, for joining me in this important effort.

IN HONOR OF DANNY PLYMESSER
AND DOLORES TLACIL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Danny Plymesser and Dolores Tlacil. My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring these representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary.

Danny Plymesser is a Cleveland native. After graduating from Fairview High School, he joined the Navy. There, he was quickly sent to Panama, and from there, Vietnam.

After his service, he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2533. A very active member, Danny participated in many programs and advanced through the post positions. In 1996, he became Post Commander. For four consecutive years, his peers selected him for Post Commander. Danny was recognized every year as All State Post Commander. He continues to provide extensive service to the Post on various committees and chairmanships, and even as a cook during their dinners.

Additionally, Danny is active with the Cuyahoga Council County, and is now serving as commander. He is also active at the state and national levels. He is to be commended for his broad service.

I also wish to honor Dolores Tlacil. During World War II, she married and began raising her family of seven children. She joined the

Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign War in 1985. Dorothy served on many committees and became President in 1986. She proudly carried the American Flag in many local parades to honor our veterans.

Last year, Dolores was elected to President of the Cuyahoga County Council. She is also involved in the American Legion Post 496. Dolores has served as model of active citizenship and public service to assisting our local veterans.

I ask my colleagues to rise in honor of Danny Plymesser and Dolores Tlacil. They have served as true models of the committed men and women who serve in the VFW and Ladies Auxiliaries.

AMTRAK TURNS THIRTY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, thirty years ago today, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) took over from the Nation's freight railroads the responsibility for providing intercity passenger train services in the United States. Passenger train services had fallen on hard times. The railroads had a common carrier obligation to provide passenger train service, but virtually all of them were losing money and wanted to rid themselves of what they saw as an unnecessary burden. Prior to the creation of Amtrak, it was the policy of many of the railroads to simply allow the service to deteriorate to the point where ridership was so sparse that the Interstate Commerce Commission would grant the carriers permission to discontinue the operation. Some of the railroads went beyond benign neglect and actively downgraded the service to discourage people from riding the trains.

The railroads were private, for-profit firms that saw passenger operations as little more than a drain on their income from carrying freight. After 1920, except for the World War II years, intercity rail passenger travel declined, as people shifted to air and auto to meet their intercity transportation needs. Passenger train travel declined not only relative to other modes, but absolutely as well. From being the dominant mode of intercity transportation in 1920, rail passenger service declined to relative insignificance by 1970. Less than one-half of one percent of intercity passenger transportation was made by rail. Many thought that the day of the passenger train was over, and that outside of a handful of operations in a few densely populated corridors, passenger trains were destined to join the stagecoach and the flatboat as relics of America's transportation history.

Fortunately, for America's traveling public, this was not to be the case. Congress passed the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 and created the National Railroad Passenger Corporation—popularly known as Amtrak. On May 1, 1971, most of the railroads still operating passenger trains turned over their equipment to Amtrak and the new company took over the responsibility for providing intercity passenger